



CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
Office of the City Manager
Letter to Commission No. 234-2005

To: Mayor David Dermer and
Members of the City Commission

Date: September 7, 2005

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jorge M. Gonzalez".

Subject: SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH /ON-STREET PARKING ISSUES - UPDATE

The Administration continues to work with Saint Patrick's Church and the surrounding residential neighborhood in order to ameliorate the parking challenges in the area, particularly during various services at the church. The Parking and CIP Departments contracted Carney-Neuhaus, Inc., a local engineering firm to survey the neighborhood within the boundaries of 40th Street to the north, 34th Street to the south, Alton Road to the west, and North Meridian Avenue to the east. Carney-Neuhaus, Inc. provided recommendations to convert various blocks from parallel parking to angle parking as well standardization of all parking configurations in the area. This recommendation will only increase on-street parking from 160 existing spaces to 169 proposed spaces for a net increase of nine spaces or 5.4%. While any increase to the parking inventory is a welcomed one, it is the Administration's recommendation to effectuate this reconfiguration as street improvements are scheduled over time.

Saul Frances, Parking Director; Chuck Adams, Assistant Parking Director; and Hiram Siaba, Senior Capital Projects Coordinator met with Monsignor Vaughn, Saint Patrick's Church to discuss these initiatives and recommendations. Monsignor Vaughn understood and agreed with this strategy. Moreover, Saint Patrick's is researching and reviewing various innovative concepts to address their parking challenges that the City's Planning, Parking, and CIP departments will provide guidance from a regulatory perspective.

Notwithstanding these initiatives, the Parking Department will continue to honor its commitment to Saint Patrick's Church in the form of a variety of parking programs in order to accommodate parishioners during regular and/or holiday services. These programs include: (1) House of Worship Program; (2) surrounding municipal surface parking lots that are available at no charge after 6:00 P.M.; and (3) "kinder and gentler" enforcement tactics.

As you may recall, the House of Worship Parking Program has been a successful program for temples and churches throughout the City. The House of Worship Program is a pre-paid decal purchased by the religious entity and distributed to the congregation at their discretion. Locations, days, and hours of the permit are contingent upon the needs of the religious institution. Secondly, surface parking lots in the vicinity of Saint Patrick's Church are available at no charge to parishioners after 6:00 P.M. for evening services (meters are enforced 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M./seven day a week). Lastly, the Parking Department's

"kinder and gentler" enforcement tactics such as requesting drivers to move their vehicles prior to issuing a citation has been very successful citywide. St. Patrick's Church has also been proactive by providing announcements (written and verbal) to its parishioners urging them to park legally. Blatant safety violations, included but not limited to, parking at crosswalks, disabled spaces, fire hydrants, bus stops, and/or obstruction of traffic, are strictly enforced.

The Parking Department will continue having communications with Saint Patrick's Church in an effort to enhance parking services for their parishioners. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Saul Frances, Parking Director at extension 6483 or me at extension 6637.

Electronic Copy: Management Team

JMG/RCM/SF

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